



Seattle Office for Civil Rights

Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor
Mariko Lockhart, Interim Director

Dear friend,

I'm excited to share with you the elements of Mayor Durkan's proposed budget that impact our work at the Seattle Office for Civil Rights.

When Mayor Durkan asked me to serve as Interim Director, she shared with me her intent and hope that in her administration, the Seattle Office for Civil Rights would become a model for the nation.

Starting on the day she was sworn into office, Mayor Durkan made clear her commitment to our work, by signing Executive Order 2017-13, that strengthens and supports the Race and Social Justice Initiative. In her proposed budget, the RSJI team receives much needed adjustments to staff positions that give us additional capacity to meet the pressing training and technical assistance needs of City employees.

In a small department such as ours, every position has a major impact. The Mayor's budget proposal reflects the value she places on our work by preserving funding for all permanent staff in each of our service areas: Civil Rights Enforcement, Policy and the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Moreover, I'm thrilled to share that the proposed budget also adds the new position of Deputy Director that will significantly increase our ability to serve the community and City employees effectively. When I came on board, the Policy Manager was filling a dual role by assuming the additional responsibilities of a Deputy Director. With the establishment of this new position, we don't have to choose one important role over the other.

I encourage you to learn more about the budget process at <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor>. This increased investment in the Seattle Office for Civil Rights is testament to the work of our staff who serve the people of Seattle with integrity, passion and expertise. It is an honor to work with them.

Please let City Councilmembers know that you support these investments by emailing the Council using the Council website link below or attending one of the two Council budget hearings scheduled for the following dates:

- Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018, 5:30 p.m., Seattle City Hall in Council Chambers
- Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2018, 5:30 p.m., Seattle City Hall in Council Chambers

<http://www.seattle.gov/council>

Thank you for your partnership and support,

Mariko Lockhart, Interim Director
Seattle Office for Civil Rights